

The Times

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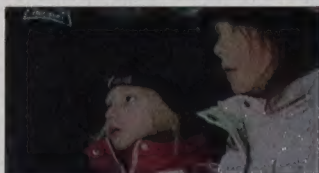
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LOOK INSIDE



Rinkless

Hockey Day in Canada just isn't the same without outdoor rinks.

See page 3



50 years

Dollo family celebrates 50 years in the grocery store business.

See page 5



Hockey with heart

Storm Timbits hockey players raise money to help cancer patient.

See page 9



Heavens can wait

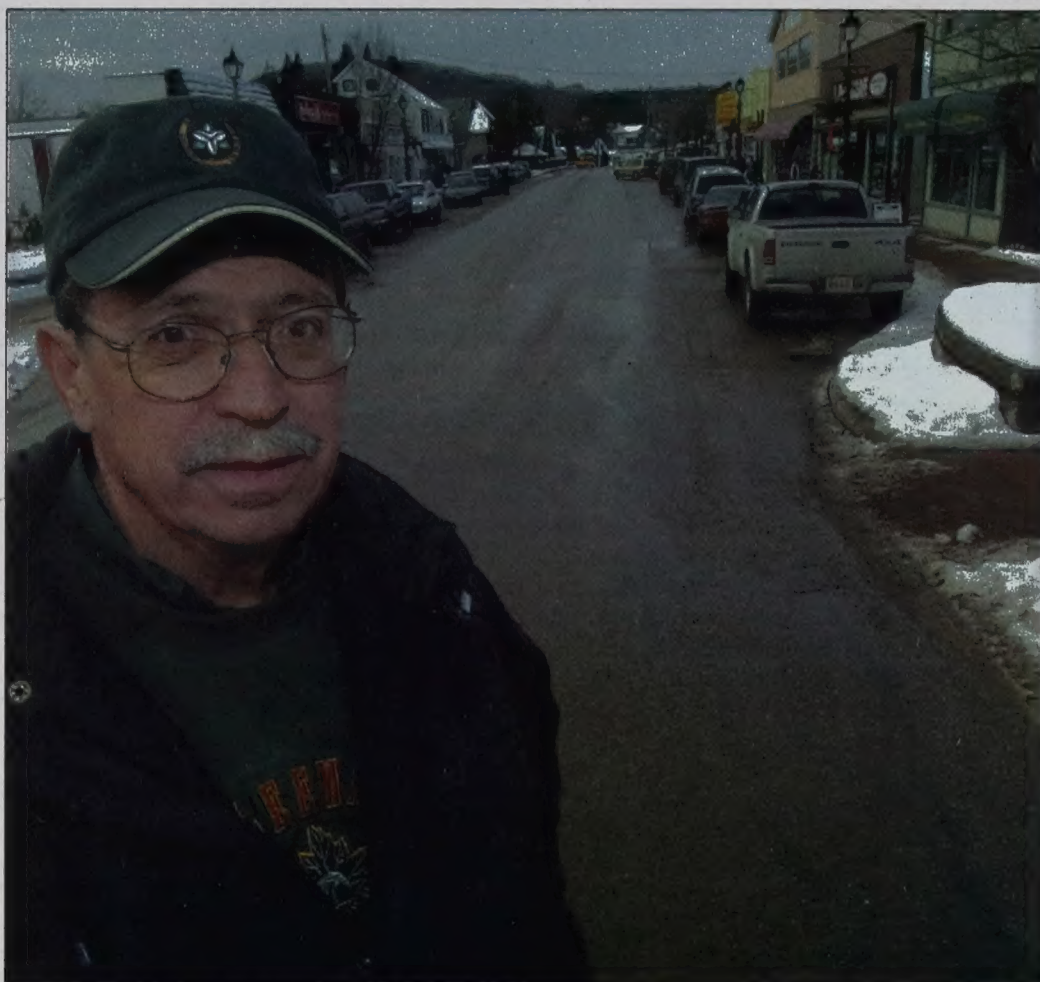
Heaven family waits for New Year's to arrive with a annual outdoor party.

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In Quotes

"Take time to admire the late James Cooper's skill in constructing a dual toilet out of blue plastic water barrels."

Margaret and Peter Brogden, page 15



Minden Hills Reeve Jim McMahon is hoping to bring back a BIA to downtown Minden. "There are a lot of new businesses and I want to get something going," he said. "I am hoping to have some roundtable discussions with interested parties in the next few weeks." Photo, Darren Lum.

BIA back?

Reeve hopes to spark new life in downtown Minden with revamped business association

by BRYN WEESE
Times staff

There is something to be said for a strong association of businesses. There is strength in numbers, especially when it comes to co-operation and the livelihood of small business owners in rural Canada. Business associations across the country have kept community alive in a variety of ways but, primarily, they encourage co-operation for the betterment of the whole.

It is just such an association that Minden Hills reeve and business owner Jim McMahon is looking to create.

"I said in the new year that I wanted to revitalize the downtown core," says the owner of McMahon's Feeds and Needs on Bobcaygeon Road. "There are a lot of new businesses and I want to get something going. I am hoping to have some roundtable discussions with interested parties in the next few weeks."

Chiefly, McMahon is proposing to re-establish the Minden Business Association, a descendant of the former BIA that was disbanded by the previous Minden Hills council due to a lack of interest.

"I think it's important to work together," he says.

He adds that there is provincial funding available to business associations who are proposing to revitalize rural downtown centres. It is McMahon's hope that a new business association could make use of what resources are available to it and together improve the look and feel of Minden's main street.

In theory, a business association could act as a mini chamber of commerce only with a very limited scope. One of the benefits would be organizing events such as the Santa Claus parade, the tree lighting and Midnight Madness and summer sales. Events, organized through the business association, would ideally facilitate successful sales and advertising

see STORE page 2

Sleds stalled by weather; snowmobile trails not open

More snow, frost needed to get groomers going

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times editor

As rain drizzled over the Highlands on Wednesday, Andy Chvedukas felt the pain of hundreds of snowmobilers.

"Our groomers are ready to go," he says of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association's eagerness to start smoothing the way for this year's snowmobile season. "We want to get out there as soon as we can but Mother Nature is not co-operating."

Last year the groomers were out before Christmas but this year the lack of snow and frost is keeping the groomers inside the HCSA's garage.

The club needs a foot of snow on the ground before it's safe to send out the groomers. Until Wednesday's rain there was almost enough snow.

That's only one of the factors putting the

brakes on this year's snowmobiling season, says Chvedukas, the HCSA's president. The frost is not yet in the ground, contributing to numerous wet spots on the trails. Some of them are quite deep.

"It's just patchy all over the place," he says. "That creates hazards for these big pieces of machinery."

There have also been numerous trees on trails but that's par for the course, Chvedukas says. The men who operate the groomers carry chainsaws with them so the trails can be cleared immediately.

Haliburton is not alone when it comes to frustrated snowmobile enthusiasts. Chvedukas says that, apart from some trails near Barrie and Bracebridge, nearly all of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club trails remain closed.

Meanwhile, he reminds snowmobilers that lakes are not a safe alternative.

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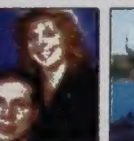
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B&Bs help food banks

Local bed and breakfasts raised more than \$2,000 for local food banks. The money, which will be evenly split between the 4Cs and the Minden Food Bank, was raised during the recent B&B Christmas tour. From left are Mary Hicks (Minden Food Bank), Barbara Walford-Davis (chair of Minden Food Bank), Gord Elliott (Minden House), Ave Petch (chair of 4Cs), Joe and Pam Smith (Meadow Wood B&B), and Paul Hicks (Chalet by-the-lake B&B).

Store owners in favour of idea to start new BIA

from page 1
campaigns.

Another benefit could be, as McMahon says, a new look for the main street, and not only the outside. Businesses themselves could develop themes for storefronts and in-store decorations.

In Minden, McMahon and others are hoping that a new business association could help the downtown core businesses lure in shoppers from the Highway 35 bypass.

But McMahon's wish, without co-operation from other businesses in Minden, will remain just that, a wish. Fortunately, it appears as though many other business owners on Minden's main street are just as eager as McMahon.

"It is needed so we can co-ordinate more events," says Michelle St. Pierre, store manager at Golden Stationers. "To create more pride locally and get the street looking better. A little more continuity would really help."

John Thomas, owner of V&S Stedmans agrees, adding that he would gladly participate in a business association.

"I'd be more than happy to pitch in," he says. "We really need some direction, you know, a unified voice. Things get in disarray, such as cancelling the parade. I think a [new business association] would be quite a good idea."

Sharon Joyce, owner of Jewels on Minden's main street, is really keen on the idea, especially if it could co-ordinate events to better serve the community and the businesses.

"Next year, I'd like to see the Santa Claus parade at 5 [p.m.], the tree lighting at 6 and then midnight madness – and music on the street," she said. "A new association is needed very badly. We need a lot of hype for one big night."

"I'll be more than happy to be involved," Joyce says and adds that already the downtown core co-operates and helps each other out. "Even now, we send each other business."

Paul Heffer, owner of Minden's Pharmasave, is also enthusiastic about a revitalization of main street and the creation of a new business association.

"Any initiative like that is always welcome," he says. "You need someone to spearhead it though; it is tough."

While there seems to be overwhelming support for the creation of a new Minden business association, there has been nothing more than talk to this point.

McMahon has been in contact with Andy Campbell from the Haliburton County Development Corporation and is hopeful that meaningful discussions can take place in the very near future with other Minden businesses. This comes as no surprise. When McMahon became reeve of Minden Hills late last year, he signalled that the revitalization of Minden's downtown core and the creation of a new business association was going to be high on his list of priorities.

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Once again, invitations were sent out for Dec. 18th bringing over 150 guests. The inspiration and hospitality of Greg and Lisa, has continued into its 5th year. We give thanks to all who contributed in any way. The delicious turkey dinners served by the staff, gifts for the children donated by Legion Branch 636 Seniors, delightful dinner music and carols from John Menzies, volunteer drivers from the Anglican Parish of Minden Kinmount and St. George's Haliburton, for cash donations, for pies from Dollo's IGA. Ice cream from Kawartha Dairy and donations from Sysco Food Services and Gormans Distributing and others, especially Santa.

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gifts & Christmas goodies.

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All dressed up with no place to play: from left, Sage Christiano, Renzo Rosati, a Stanhope Fire Department firefighter, River Christiano and Alyssa Stiver wish there

were more outdoor skating rinks in the county. Dorset is the only community that has one. Minden politicians say they're not opposed to the idea. Photo, Darren Lum.

Hockey Day in Canada not the same without an outdoor skating rink

by BRYN WEESE
Times staff

Many Canadians will need no reminding that Saturday is Hockey Day in Canada. Dedicated television viewers will be bombarded with more than 13 hours of coverage spanning three NHL games with all six Canadian teams, amateur hockey, stories of hockey's past and visions of its future in Canada. Whoa, that's a lot of hockey!

But the essence of hockey is not about the NHL, not any more anyway. It lives and grows with communities across Canada in venues great and small, talent over the hill and budding.

"Hockey's heart and soul lies right in the middle of our communities," says *Hockey Night in Canada* host Ron MacLean in a CBC news release. "From backyard rinks to local arenas, that is where you will find Canada's true passion for hockey."

MacLean, the host of this year's marathon celebration, has been travelling around the country talking hockey and gathering stories in preparation for the coverage, which begins on CBC at noon on Saturday January 7.

"Having the opportunity to visit these wonderful communities is a great privilege," he says. "It is remarkable to see how villages and towns from coast to coast to coast embrace the game of hockey. It never ceases to amaze me."

The purpose of Hockey Day in Canada is two-fold. While being glued to the television set for 13 hours is of utmost importance, it is also important, says MacLean, that fans take the day to appreciate the game many Canadians enjoy.

"Hockey Day in Canada has become an

unofficial holiday for Canadian hockey fans everywhere," he says. "It is important that we take one day to gather our friends and family together to pay tribute to our wonderful game."

And just how does MacLean suggest fans celebrate the sport? Of his 10 tips on fun things to do on Hockey Day in Canada, five require outdoor skating facilities. First on the list is to organize a game of shinny, the quintessential hockey tradition. Practising skills, teaching a friend to skate and learning to tie your own skates are also high on the list.

Here in Minden, or throughout most of the county for that matter, there is no outdoor ice rink to play shinny on. Not for a lack of interest, but rather a lack of direction.

"There are enough things happening here, that I think we need an events coordinator," says Minden Hills Reeve Jim McMahon. "If council agrees, we could advertise for a volunteer who could put these things together: Canada Day, Timbersports, the [Santa Claus] parade and a rink."

"There are lots of kids in the area," he added. "Let them have fun. Life is too short not to have fun."

When asked about the probability of an outdoor ice rink this year, McMahon replied that anything is possible. He added that during Winterfest there is an opportunity for outdoor skating but that it is not really the same thing.

Minden Hills CAO Gerry Morrison says that, if council desired, a municipal rink would not be too difficult to organize. In fact, a relative newcomer to the area himself, he said he would welcome it.

"I think it would be good for the community," Morrison said. "Most communi-

ties have them and insurance shouldn't be a problem."

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is the only municipality in the county to run an outdoor skating rink. It is in Dorset. Technically, the rink is jointly owned by the Township of Lake of Bays and Algonquin Highlands, although a formal agreement several years ago put the rink under the control of the latter.

"It's a part of our growing up here," says Algonquin Highlands Councillor Kerry Locke about the importance of the nearly 100-year-old rink to the community. "There are pictures in the Dorset museum of hockey teams that played here in the '20s, '30s and '40s."

"What's great is that it is free," she adds. "Kids can go skating whenever they want. Many people here can't afford the time to drive to the arenas and a lot of the time, there are only one or two nights when arenas allow free skating."

Two years ago, a much smaller rink was also maintained in Stanhope. The fire department along with local resident Robin Carmount and former part-time township employee Alicia Stevens started the rink as a way for local children to be entertained.

"For two years, we've had nothing," said Stanhope volunteer firefighter Renzo Rosati who worked on the rink years ago. "On behalf of the Stanhope firefighters, we would gladly support a rink, but the key word is support."

As is the case elsewhere, local fire departments often help with the flooding of outdoor rinks. This is something, says Rosati that the Stanhope department could entertain doing.

Rosati says that the determining factor is not cost but rather volunteer dedication.

"It's not an insurance issue or a cost issue, it's a manpower issue."

Robin Carmount, who continues to maintain a private rink on his property, agrees.

"It has to be done right, you have to make sure the ice is smooth," he says. "It's a lot of hard work. It takes volunteers to do it."

"This township supports recreation," he adds. "I think they would support a rink but you need the volunteers."

Indeed, the township's CAO Lorne Mitchell said that the real cost of the rink in Dorset is the staff who are paid to maintain it. "I think that if it were totally a volunteer project, the cost would be much less," he said. Last year, the operating cost of the rink in Dorset was approximately \$11,000 with an additional \$4,000 added for reserves.

Despite the lack of outdoor rinks, there is obviously a tremendous hockey culture in the county. The Highland Storm minor hockey association continues to grow, despite problems of finding available ice.

Terry Goodwin, president of the Highland Storm Hockey Association, says that the creation of outdoor rinks would be a positive contribution to the community.

"It would be a great thing. It would help to encourage a life-long love of the sport as well as providing kids with more time on the ice," he says. "I think if you had the leadership, the parents would get going [to help maintain the outdoor rink]."

On Saturday, while peering into the television for 13.5 hours watching all things hockey, many people in Minden, and Stanhope, and Haliburton should ponder the benefit of outdoor ice rinks – more physical activity for children, less time in front of the television.

Holiday sales garner mixed reviews

Local retailers satisfied with Christmas sales but some say other years have been better

by BRYN WEESE
Times staff

Christmas has become as much about the shopping and the spending as it has been about family and well-earned rest. Right or wrong, the holiday season means spending big bucks for family, friends, co-workers, neighbours, teachers, postmen and the family pet.

But whereas everyone spends money hand over fist during the holiday season, that money finds its way into the hands of valuable businesses that keep economies like Minden's alive.

Here in Minden, many local retailers are reporting that the holiday sales were fair to good, despite national trends in increased Internet shopping and out-of-town shopping sprees.

"It started off pretty quiet," says John Thomas, owner of the Minden V&S Stedmans. "But it picked up during the last two days before Christmas. All in all, it was similar to last year."

"We did okay," says Michelle St. Pierre, store manager at Minden's Golden Stationers. She noted that they have had better years in the past. "There was no impulse shopping. I don't think people are spending as much."

St. Pierre may be right. People are not spending as much in local stores but it appears that the people of Minden are buying less over the Internet as well.

Golden Stationers is the Purolator agent in Minden and St. Pierre says that not as many packages were coming in or going out this year.

Another popular Christmas purchase, digital cameras, had steady sales at Minden's Photo Solutions.

"We had a good year," reports owner Lori Roberts. "We also do reprints and

cards which are popular over Christmas. We had a mixed bag [of sale successes] this year."

Amidst reports of fair Christmas sales, one Minden business, Jewels, reports excellent and unprecedented sales.

"The week before Christmas was the best week we've ever had and probably ever will have," reports Sharon Joyce,

owner of Jewels jewellery store on Minden's main street. "It was just excellent."

For Joyce, who had previously operated out of Golden Stationers and has only been in her own location since October, customer service is what made her holiday season so successful.

"The reason I'm here is because of the service," she notes. "I'm living proof that if you show a little enthusiasm and treat people well, you can succeed."

Largely Joyce credits her staff for their holiday sales success. The staff, she says, has been receiving compliments from customers all year about their friendly and helpful nature.

Her success is not all that surprising considering the popularity of jewellery at Christmas time. But what about food? Christmas isn't really the same without copious amounts of table fare.

"We did well this year," says owner David Dollo. "Maybe not as good as other years but in our industry all of our Christmas shoppers are latecomers who want fresh food for the big day."

So, all in all, a pretty good year for the local Minden businesses. Although they would all have enjoyed being even busier (who wouldn't) weathered the Christmas season with relatively healthy sales.

"We get really good local support," says John Thomas of V&S. That is a sentiment, most likely shared by all local businesses.

December weather dull

by PHIL GRAHAM
Special to the Times

The end of December brought the end of the year. There was lots of variety weather-wise and December was not one of the better ones. It seems mother nature had a spite against us.

December was a very dull month: very cloudy, not much rain and plenty of snow day after day.

The average temperature was about normal but cooler than last December.

Rain fall happened during Christmas, December 24 and 25 making it wet for Santa.

Average High: -3.C, 26.6F

Average Low: -10.4C, 13.2F

Average for the month: -6.9C, 19.5F

Average for last December: -4.4C, 24.0F

Highest Temperature December 25: 2.5C,

36.5F

Lowest Temperature December 13: -26.0C, -14.8F

Rain: 20 mm, 0.7 inches

Snow: 78 cm, 3.0 inches

Total Precipitation: 98.0 mm, 3.8 inches

Total Precip. for last December: 136 mm, 5.3 inches

Days mostly sunny: 7

Days with rain or snow: 21

Days with thunderstorms: 0

Snow on ground Dec. 31: 21 cm, 8.2 inches

Snow on ground last Dec.: 37 cm, 14.5 inches

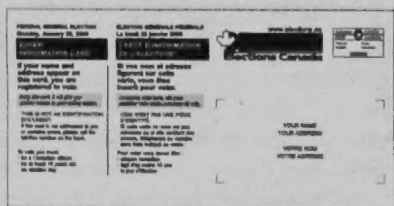
Total snowfall Nov. 1 to Dec. 31: 98 cm, 38.5 inches

Days with freezing rain: 1

Trivia: The earth's surface receives about 15 per cent less sunshine than it did 50 years ago owing to thicker clouds and increased air pollution.



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MINDEN, ONTARIO

Dollos celebrate 50 years in food business

by BRYN WEESE
Times staff

The IGA that stands proudly on Highway 35 is a staple of the Minden community like few others.

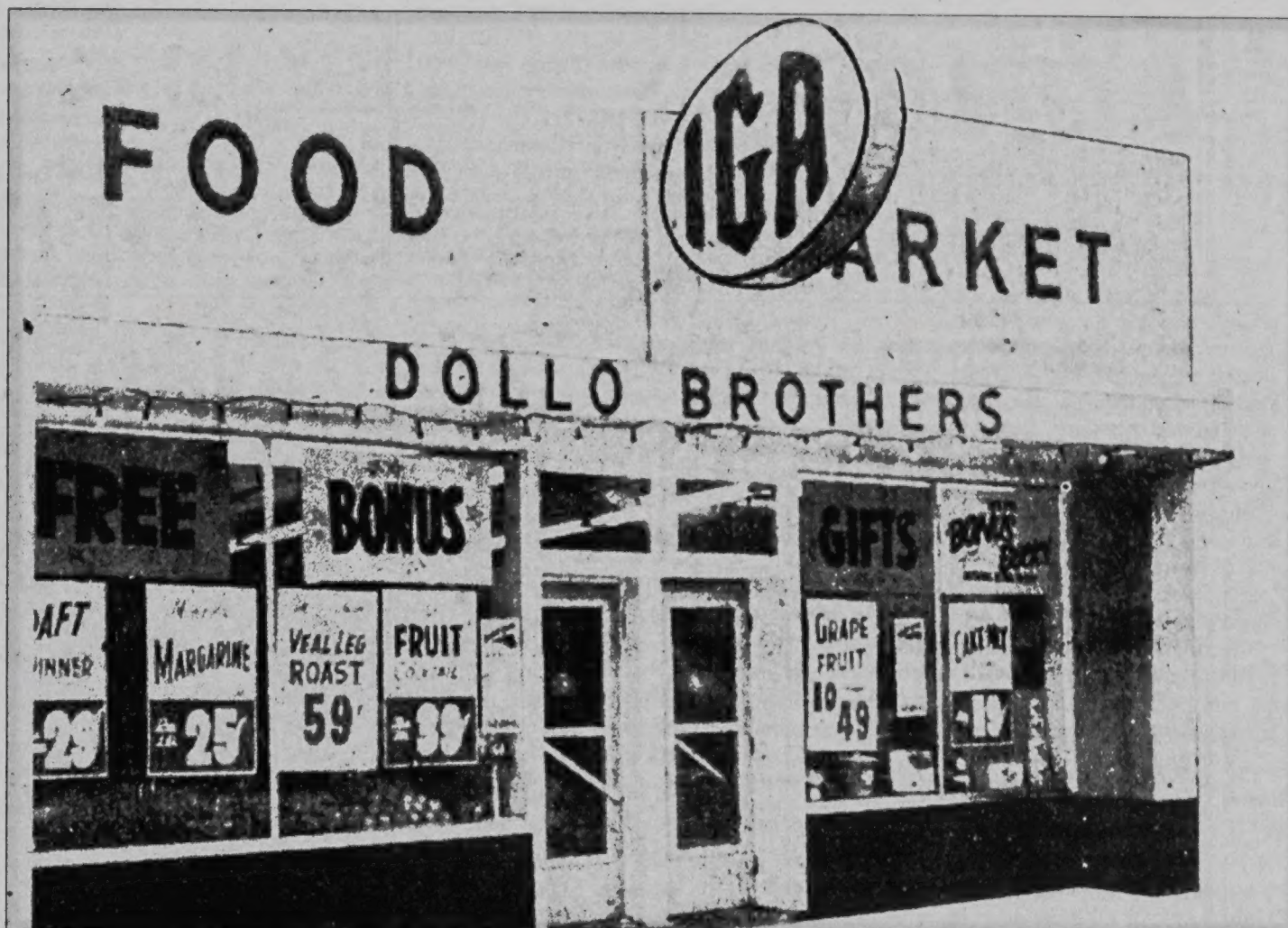
For 50 years, the Dollo family has been proudly serving Mindenites their greens. This weekend the IGA is planning a birthday bash to celebrate the milestone.

"It's our family's 50th year in business in Minden," says current IGA owner David Dollo. "We see a strong future in Minden in the years to come."

To celebrate, the Dollos and the IGA family will be handing out free draw tickets to customers on Friday, as well as gifts, cake and other food stuffs. Special sales will continue the entire weekend.

It comes as no surprise that the IGA is giving back on their birthday.

"We certainly enjoy the patronage of the Minden community," Dollo says.



The second Dollo Brothers' store was located on Main Street. The family business is celebrating its golden anniversary in Minden.

"They've been a great support."

David's father Peter and his uncle Joe and their wives, Christina and Florence, established the IGA in Minden on the main street beside Stedmans in 1956. The store was relocated to 63 Main Street in 1968 (where 45th Apparel is today). David joined the business in 1975. Together, they opened the new IGA store at its current location on Highway 35 in

1986. It was expanded in 1998.

Today, David's son Jamie has also taken up a post at the family business.

Peter was a long-time resident of the area, moving from Toronto to Haliburton prior to WWII when he was 16. At that time, he worked with his sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Bruno Tiberi, at their fruit and vegetable market.

Peter and Joe started their own fruit

market in Minden after the war with the help of their sister Phyllis. They travelled twice a week to the produce terminal in Toronto to pick up the produce. They delivered produce to lodges and cottages in the Minden area.

For 50 years now, Peter and son David's produce department at the IGA has been well known by both Minden and area residents and cottagers.

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The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO



Published weekly at the County seat
by OSPREY MEDIA GROUP INC.
Box 97, Minden Ontario K0M 2K0
Box 360, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone (705) 286-1288 Fax (705) 286-4768
email: editor@mindentimes.ca
PAP registration No. 10673

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada
through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP) toward newspaper mailing costs
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Frozen water for the soul

The voice said, "If you build it, they will come," although for Minden and its surrounding area a more appropriate prediction might be, "If you flood it, they will skate."

No one knows, or could possibly know, just how many outdoor ice rinks exist in Canada. They exist as private backyard skating pads bought in a Sears catalogue, and as frozen ponds meticulously shovelled and maintained by the neighbourhood. Also, some lucky communities get the municipally cared-for super-rinks under the stars complete with indoor changing rooms and lights.

Outdoor rinks are the lifeblood of our unofficial national sport. They have given rise to countless NHL stars whose first hockey success was sliding a puck, below knee-level, between two shoes in a snow bank rather than in front of thousands of adoring fans in temperature-controlled arenas in places as unlikely as Phoenix. Remember, it was on the pond, not in the arena, where the Great One himself, Gretzky, began to hone his hockey prowess.

But shinny is a term for pick-up hockey that is quickly fading from the Minden vocabulary for lack of the proper outdoor facilities. Sadly, here in Haliburton County, the magic, mysticism and joy of the quintessential Canadian "outdoor rink" is missing for scores of people.

It is both shocking and disappointing that an outdoor rink does not exist in Minden, or Stanhope, or Haliburton or anywhere else in the county with the exception of Dorset. And Dorset has one of the best outdoor rinks the world has ever seen, proving that it is not only money that can make dreams happen, but also hard work, dedication and a desire to create something, together, for the betterment of the community no matter how small.

Not only does an outdoor rink add to the social well-being of a community, a place to meet friends and organize weekend activities, it also encourages physical activity among today's youth that is, so say the experts, in dire need. Several years ago, the national charitable organization Go for Green began promoting the importance of outdoor rinks and encouraging their growth throughout Canada. Ice Dreams, as it was called, was their program that highlighted the benefits of outdoor skating as a healthy activity for children, as well as for the strength of community and the environment – a triple threat that is hard to find in this day and age.

Unfortunately, Ice Dreams' message didn't reach Minden, or Haliburton, or anywhere else in the county.

The only organized hockey in this neck of the woods, the Highland Storm, states on its website that acquiring ice-time is proving difficult as arenas are tempted to rent the ice to higher-paying private adult user groups. It's an odd problem for an organization that is growing, this year offering for the first time ever a travelling girls' team.

In a world dominated by the bottom line, dollars and cents (clearly not sense) and balanced budgets, how about free ice for the children whenever they want it? No dollars required; just a little elbow grease and some hot water on a cold winter's night.

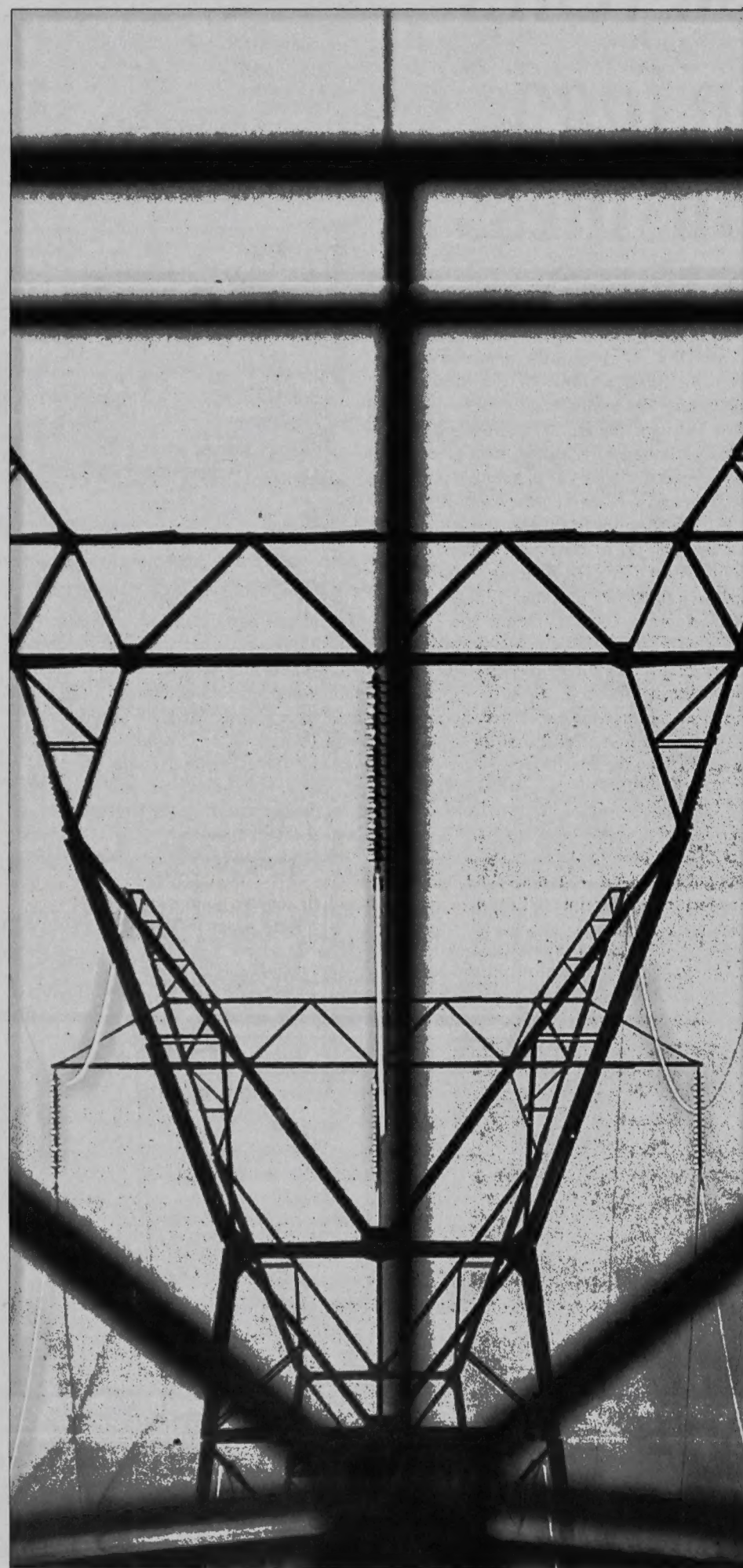
Unfortunately, it might be too late.

Minden and Haliburton have gone so long without an "outdoor rink culture," that the children may not know how to react. You may even find some caring, albeit thoughtless soul absentmindedly throwing sand and salt on the rink to make the smooth, shiny, slippery ice melt away. No doubt that if ever outdoor rinks do sprout up in the county, it will take people a bit of getting use to. After all, it is entertainment that doesn't have an on/off switch!

But, if you flood it, they will come – eventually. The benefits are well worth it.

There is just one rule: the last goal wins, provided of course that the puck makes it through the shoes.

– Bryn Weese



IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Hydro towers as graphic art.

Photo/Darren Lum.

TO THE EDITOR

Times readers write

Thanks to Minden hospital

To the Editor:

Our son-in-law arrived late Christmas eve with a cut hand. In the morning it was swollen so he went to Minden Emergency. He was very impressed with the quick

efficient treatment he received. We are fortunate to have caring doctors and staff at our Emergency Hospital.

Bea Berry,
Minden

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Tuesday 9am - 5pm, Wednesday 9am-12 Noon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Must be signed and include telephone number.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Anywhere in Canada \$35.00 (includes GST).

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IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Hallmark overload

In South Korea there are approximately 21 Valentine's Day-type holidays a year. Men and women are encouraged to buy gifts and speak of their undying love and devotion to each other.

I believe this is why the South Korean army is one of the largest in the world.

It makes sense really. As a young fellow you could either live in a society where you are subjected to almost two sappy Hallmark holidays a month or you could leave all that behind to be shot at, and potentially be killed or maimed, while patrolling the Demilitarized Zone.

As Valentine's Day hurtles down upon us like a runaway train, I can't help but lament the fact that we don't have that kind of choice here.

Okay, maybe it's a little too early to be mourning the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday which, as I have stated before, is the only holiday we have that's named after a massacre. But I don't think so.

It'll be here fairly soon and there's really no way of avoiding it. There's the sen-

timental cards, chocolates, roses, fancy gifts, scented bubble baths, and long foot massages - sometimes I think I ought to get her something in return.

It's not that I'm not a romantic either. Heck, last Valentine's Day I even baited my wife's hook while we were out ice fishing - with top quality wax worms, no less. No, my suspicion of Valentine's Day has more to do with the fact that I resent marketing people telling me how I should relate to my wife. Personally, I believe that how and when a man grovels is something that should be between him and his wife.

It seems that even the Koreans are beginning to rebel against all this. Their media is reporting that many young people see these holidays as artificial, mean-

ingless, and far too publicized - unlike our Groundhog Day.

Who can blame them?

On or around the 14th of every month, there is a holiday devoted to parting money from the wallets of hardworking couples. For instance, November 11th is Pepero Day, a holiday where lovers are expected to give each other a pencil-shaped cookie stick covered in chocolate. Fortunately, here in North America, we have reserved November 11th for Remembrance Day, and, if you ask me, that's just one more reason to hug a veteran.

That's not to say that our own Valentine's Day is perfect either. I mean, who ever thought of placing it right in the middle of the ice fishing season anyhow? Even the symbols are kind of weird. This naked, fat baby named Cupid runs around

with a bow - which I happen to believe is an authentic Turkish horn-bow capable of skewering a charging water buffalo from 200 paces - and shoots unsuspecting people through the heart. Sure, this is romantic in its own right but, aside from the charging water buffalo, what does it have to do with love?

The other part I've never understood is why we give chocolates to those we profess affection for? It's like we're saying that we love you now, but we'd love you even more if you gained six pounds today.

Other South Korean holidays are even more ridiculous. Take, for instance, Green Day, which happens on August 14. On this day, couples are supposed to dress in green and drink cheap liquor from green bottles.

No, the costumes, props, and fake sentimentality are just plain silly. The Koreans can have them.

Give me a real holiday like St. Patrick's Day every time.



BEYOND35

Steve Galea

Romantic? Or curmudgeon?

The most intriguing conversations are the ones you join in midstream. So it is for a man I know well who disengages himself from one dinner-table conversation just in time to hear a query lobbed at his date.

"So," the woman across the table is asking, "is Amos a real romantic? I always thought of him as kind of a curmudgeon."

And then she notices that Amos is listening and a look of horror crosses her face. "You weren't supposed to be listening," she exclaims.

Though it makes no difference to this column, it should be recorded that Amos knows the woman across the table well enough but his date has only just met her.

Amos figures the question really was about something more carnal than Paul McCartney/June-and-spoon/running-through-fields-of-wildflowers romance but the question just lies there like a beached flounder and then everybody finds a new topic.

Had he been given the chance, Amos would have explained that the relationship between the romantic and the curmudgeon is more evolution than contradiction.

Most of us begin our adult lives as romantics, trusting in human nature and expecting the best of the world around

us. If we have any sense at all, we soon grow out of that.

The most civilized of us manage to teach ourselves to mouth beliefs we no longer hold. How do we feel about the environment? We're in favour of it. What about poverty? Pollution? Greed? Urban sprawl? Consumerism? We're against them.

So we say and then we go out and live lives that put the lie to all our stated beliefs and vote for people who tell us only what we want to hear.

Those of us without much sense, the unreformed romantics, let the world layer on calluses of disappointment and we progress from romantic to skeptic, cynic and curmudgeon and then old friends despair of us.

I am not so sure about Amos but as for me, I am not yet a curmudgeon; I am still a work in progress, but I do have hopes.

Nine days of splashing through the tidepools of sprawl that lie along the shoreline of the Centre of Universe moved me a little closer to that goal.

Eight days and a thousand-plus kilometres of driving through Orillia and ski

country to Collingwood and Owen Sound and then south to Niagara and life up here in the bush never looked better.

Random sightings, beginning with a defining moment at the start of the long road home, near St. Catharines on the Queen Elizabeth Way:

A sign proclaims, approximately (I do not take notes when I am driving), "Ontario's Green Belt."

Then there are clutters of houses on both sides of the road, sprawling greenhouses covering good fruitland, billboards-proclaiming

more subdivisions, more development. That all comes in no particular order and is spoiled here and there by patches of land still growing food and sometimes you can look as far as you can see in all directions and hardly see a Tim Hortons at all, but the smell of greed lies over it all.

And I think of the "Ontario's Green Belt" sign and the landscape it leads to and imagine some visitor wondering if Ontario, having largely abandoned Christianity, has taken up karate as its state religion.



BACK OF BEYOND

Neil Campbell

Frost Centre plans moving forward: MPP

To the Editor:

As 2005 came to a close, the Ontario Realty Corporation requested applications for investment in the Leslie M. Frost Centre. Applicants will vie for the long-term lease of the campus, which will include the provision of environmental and outdoor educational programs.

I was very happy to see that the ORC is working towards re-energizing this amazing resource. The most important factor

leading to this announcement was the grassroots work of the Working Committee. Since the centre closed in July of 2004, the Working Committee has been working tirelessly on consultations and drafting recommendations. They were the true champions of this cause and deserve a great deal of credit.

Upon the unexpected announcement of its closing, there were 5,000 children scheduled for Frost Centre programs in 2004. Its significant role as an environ-

mental, recreational and educational resource for the entire community, and specifically for school children, led to the outstanding mobilization of the community.

I remember receiving nearly 15,000 names on petitions and countless letters and calls from concerned constituents. I want to thank all of the community members who worked on informing the public and mobilizing support for the Frost Centre. The ORC announcement proves

that each and every signature and letter made a difference.

This is a great way to begin the New Year and I am looking forward to working with the Working Committee, concerned residents, educators, environmentalists, unions and businesses to ensure that this process happens in a responsible and timely matter.

MPP Laurie Scott
Haliburton-Victoria-Brock

Volleyball team works on consistency

Coaches of both junior and senior Red Hawks' teams satisfied with performances so far

by **DARREN LUM**
Times staff

With nearly half the season left, the Red Hawks girls' volleyball program is working towards realizing the players' potential.

Coaches of the junior and senior teams are satisfied with the teams' performances at this point in the season but see both teams getting better.

Senior Head Coach Janice Rickard said the season highlight was pushing perennial power Clarke Secondary School to extra points in a deciding game, losing 27 - 25. Technically, Clarke is an A school, but they play up a category for stronger competition.

"They are definitely dominating in AA. We have highs and lows, ups and downs," she said.

The Red Hawks' loss came after two consecutive wins against AA high schools.

Rickard said some of the inconsistency lies in its serving and the team's "transition from offence to defence". The team, she says, needs to find its focus for all types of competition.

"We tend to play to our competition so when the competition is high we'll play high and if the competition is low then we'll just squeak by. That's what we're working on right now," she said.

Despite some of these issues the team, primarily first-year players, has shown improvements in serving and passing.

For the juniors it's been a similar story, except there have been more notable highs such as a third place at an exhibition tournament hosted by I.E. Weldon in Lindsay just before the holidays. Their tournament drive ended when they lost two games to one in a best-of-three match against Fenelon Falls Secondary School in the semi-finals.

Head Coach Andrea Borysiuk said, "We're working on a steady, consistent climb. I don't think there are huge ups



The Junior girls' volleyball team endures an end of practice drill in the week before the Christmas holidays. The team's coach said the team is making steady progress and is keen to begin the second half of the season. Photo, Darren Lum.

and downs for us."

Junior co-coach Christie Chester agrees with Borysiuk's assessment.

"They're getting better and better every day," Chester said. "Their hits are better. I can't get over it."

With a two-week layoff the coaches expect to start from the beginning when

they return from the holidays. One small consolation is that all teams face the same problem, they say.

"It's high school sports," Borysiuk said. "It's the nature of our season and we all dislike it a whole lot."

Both teams won't be playing until the second week of January and will have

the exam layoff to contend with at the end of the month.

The coaches said being competitive and building towards the top spot near the end of the season is the best place to be.

"If you're still climbing that's good," Borysiuk said.

Inn hosts cross country ski workshop

Loralea Country Inn is hosting a cross-country ski workshop that will introduce the joys of the sport to newcomers and help experienced skiers improve their skills.

It's on Sat., March 11. People will

gather at the Halls Lake lodge for drills and games in the morning and then ski the trails at the nearby Frost Centre after lunch. Taught by Ski for Life, it's a good learning opportunity for beginners, daytrippers and novice and intermediate

skiers. The \$35 fee includes proven, qualified instruction and all necessary equipment (skis, boots, and poles). Lunch is an additional \$10.

For more details visit www.skiforlife.net.

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Hockey players with heart

While they may not be the greatest skaters nor the greatest puck handlers yet, the Highlands Storm Timbits hockey stars play with heart. Just in time for Christmas, all three of the Timbits teams joined forces to play an exhibition game to raise money for Dawson Hamilton. A Timbit himself, Dawson and his father Scott spent the holidays in Toronto while Dawson receives some much-needed treatment for leukemia. "Because Dawson couldn't be home for Christmas we really wanted to do something," said the fundraiser's organizer Tammy Smith. In total, the Highland Storm Timbits Dawson Hamilton Night raised \$685 for Dawson through a 50/50 draw, a puck toss and a monetary donations jar. The evening was also a success because of sponsorships from Indy Snowmobile Salvage, Minden Animal Hospital, Merrill Barry Trucking, Craig Smith Renovating, Ridgewood Ford and Tim Hortons. Photo, Bryn Weese.

Reach for The Future

For the eighth year the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation decorates trees located in the front lobbies of the Health Care Facilities with tags sponsored by gifts from our generous supporters. To date the 2005 "Reach for The Future" campaign has raised **\$69,272.00**. The proceeds will assist the Foundation to pay off the \$880,000 capital loan on the Health Care Facilities.

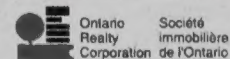
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Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank our Honourary Chairmen for our 2005 "Reach for The Future" campaign, **Dr. Bob Heyes and Dr. David Fiddler**.

If you would like to help us "Reach for The Future" this Holiday Season, your gift can be sent to **Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Box 1413, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 or Box 30, Minden, ON K0M 2K0** or you can deposit your gift in the donation boxes at the Minden and Haliburton Facilities.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND SUBMISSIONS OF QUALIFICATIONS

Long-Term Lease Opportunity
Leslie M. Frost Centre
RR# 2, Minden, Ontario
RFQ No. 05C027

The Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), on behalf of Ontario's Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal, is pleased to present an opportunity for a party or parties to enter into a long-term lease of the main campus of the Leslie M. Frost Centre, for the primary purpose of investing in, and operating environmental and outdoor educational programs with possible compatible secondary uses.

This 39-acre property is located in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, about 12 km south of the Town of Dorset, with frontage on Highway 35 and Lake St. Nora. There are 26 buildings and other structures on the site, comprising over 90,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area. For nearly 60 years until July 2004, the Ministry of Natural Resources operated these facilities as a natural resource educational and training centre.

The purpose of this Request for Expressions of Interest and Submission of Qualifications (RFQ) is to seek submissions from parties interested in pursuing this potential opportunity. The RFQ is the first step in the process towards the selection of a suitable proponent with whom ORC intends to enter into a leasing arrangement.

Full details of this invitation are provided in the RFQ document which can be viewed on the ORC website at www.orc.on.ca by clicking on the "Business w/ORC" tab. As specified in the RFQ document, parties desiring to submit a proposal must register their interest in writing, no later than 3:00:00 p.m. EST on January 24, 2006 at the following address:

Ontario Realty Corporation
Tenders Office
77 Wellesley Street West
10th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2G3

Late or misdirected registrations will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. Registrants must identify one contact person; provide a return mailing address; and, other contact information such as telephone, e-mail or fax. Such notice of registration for this RFQ must be clearly identified on the envelope as "Frost Centre RFQ Registration" and can be either delivered, couriered, or sent by registered mail to the above ORC address. Registrants for this RFQ will be assigned a personal reference number and will be allowed to make an appointment to examine various documents and materials related to the Frost Centre lands and structures. Only RFQ submissions received from Registrants will be accepted.

Any questions regarding the content of the RFQ document should be forwarded in writing, via e-mail indicating "Frost Centre RFQ" to Connie Locke, Project Manager, at Connie.Locke@orc.gov.on.ca

DEMANDE D'EXPRESSION D'INTÉRÊT ET DE QUALIFICATION (DQ)

Possibilités de bail à long terme
Centre Leslie M. Frost
R.R. n° 2, Minden (Ontario)
DQ n° 05C027

Au nom du ministère du Renouvellement de l'infrastructure publique, la Société immobilière de l'Ontario (SIO) est heureuse d'offrir à une ou plusieurs parties la possibilité de louer à long terme le campus principal du Centre Leslie M. Frost afin d'y créer et exploiter des programmes de sensibilisation à l'environnement et aux activités de plein air. Le Centre pourra éventuellement être utilisé à d'autres fins compatibles.

Cette propriété de 39 acres est située dans le canton d'Algonquin Highlands, à environ 12 km au sud de la ville de Dorset, et longe la route 35 et le lac Ste-Nora. Elle comprend 26 bâtiments et autres structures qui ont une surface hors oeuvre de plus de 90 000 pi². Pendant près de 60 ans, jusqu'en juillet 2004, ce site était administré par le ministère des Richesses naturelles et servait de centre d'éducation et de formation aux richesses naturelles.

L'objet de la présente Demande d'expression d'intérêt et de qualification (DQ) est d'obtenir les propositions de parties intéressées. La DQ est la première étape du processus de sélection du soumissionnaire apte à mener à bien ce projet avec qui la SIO conclura un bail.

Les détails complets de cette invitation figurent dans la Demande de qualification (DQ) que l'on peut consulter sur le site Web de la SIO à <http://www.orc.on.ca> en cliquant sur « Business w/ORC » (en anglais seulement). Tel que précisé dans la Demande de qualification (DQ), les parties qui souhaitent présenter une proposition doivent exprimer leur intérêt par écrit en s'inscrivant, d'ici le 24 janvier 2006, à 15 h heure limite, à l'adresse suivante :

Société immobilière de l'Ontario
Bureau des appels d'offres
77, rue Wellesley Ouest
10e étage, Édifice Ferguson
Toronto ON M7A 2G3

Les demandes tardives ou mal adressées ne seront pas acceptées et seront renvoyées sans être ouvertes. Les soumissionnaires doivent fournir le nom d'une personne-ressource, ainsi qu'une adresse où leur répondre, et d'autres coordonnées, telles que numéros de téléphone ou de télécopieur, ou courriel. L'avis d'inscription à la présente DQ doit figurer bien en évidence sur l'enveloppe comme suit : « Inscription à la DQ du Centre Frost », il peut être livré en personne, par messenger, ou envoyé par courrier recommandé à l'adresse de la SIO mentionnée ci-dessus. Les soumissionnaires recevront un numéro de référence individuel et pourront prendre rendez-vous pour examiner les divers documents et matériels en rapport avec les terrains et structures du Centre Frost. Seules les DQ provenant de soumissionnaires inscrits seront acceptées.

Veuillez adresser toute question sur le contenu de la DQ par courriel portant la mention « DQ du Centre Frost » à Connie Locke, chef du projet, à : Connie.Locke@orc.gov.on.ca



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Scenes from the Heaven family's New Year's Eve outdoor party (clockwise, from above): hosts Jan and Dave Heaven tackle a hill together; family members are all grins on the toboggan hill; friends and family warm up around the roaring fire; kids love being able to stay up until midnight with the grown-ups; everyone gathers around the fire to count down to a new year. Photos submitted.



Heavens greet the New Year in wintry style

by JAN HEAVEN
Special to the Times

Every New Year's Eve, four generations of Heaven relatives and friends carry on a 35-year-old tradition. Everyone bundles up for an outside toboggan party at Horseshoe Lake, arriving on foot pulling their toboggans and bringing their contribution of chili. Children have no problem agreeing to an afternoon nap as they really want to stay awake to see in the New Year. Adults and kids have a wonderful time on the various forms of downhill contraptions making the run as easy or challenging as they wish.

This year the fire was lit just before 8 p.m.. The weather was perfect with temperatures around -10 degrees and a fresh dusting of snow on the run.

It is very emotional to join hands with 80 or more adults and children around a roaring bonfire as they countdown to midnight under the night sky.

Dave and Jan Heaven start the preparations well in advance. The wood is gathered, the road packed down and the lights strung up in the trees. The hot chocolate and hot cider is ready. This year there was an added feature with a starting gate banked for the more daring and a dipsy-do at the bottom of the hill for those who preferred to shoot into the woods rather than make the turn on the road.

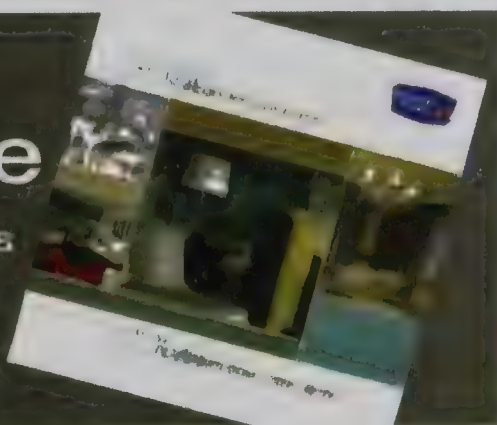
Only the young babies go inside the house and parents string monitors in the trees. Parents love sharing this time with their children rather than leaving them at home with a sitter. After midnight everyone enjoys a hot bowl of chili and buns before putting sleepy children on the sleds to drag them home. Some people stay later and enjoy a quite time of reflection by the fire.

Happy New Year everyone!



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Memorial bonspiel honours

J.O. Jackson son (front to back, left to right) Michael and wife Jean Jackson presented the Delta Pinestone Resort sponsored team of Tom Harkness, Terry Roche, Larry Holden and Case Bassie with the J.O. Jackson Trophy after winning the bonspiel at the Minden Curling Club on Dec. 28. Besting a field of 16 teams, the Pinestone team won the trophy (in its 13th year) that honours the memory of J.O. Jackson, a long-time Club member. Photo, Darren Lum.

Snowfall's been good to cross country ski club

by **BLAKE PATON**
Nordic Notes

A cold December and regular snowfalls meant that skiing started early and has provided a lot of fun for the young and lots of calorie-burning exercise for their parents in the past couple of weeks. The woods have been particularly beautiful this year.

The Haliburton Ski Club has many programs for skiers of all ages and abilities, with the premier program being the Jackrabbit where youngsters learn to ski.

The Jackrabbit ski group will begin on Saturday, January 7 from 1:30-3:00 at Glebe Park. Parents of children 4 to 11 years old should bring both the kids and their equipment to the park in plenty of time to get registered for another year of

fun and skiing.

Each child is registered with Cross Country Canada as either a Bunny Rabbit or a Jack Rabbit. The Saturday classes start with warm up exercises, followed by nordic skills and games, depending on the ability and age of the child. At 2:45 p.m. everyone heads to the clubhouse for hot chocolate.

Last year the Haliburton Ski Club once again set a new record for participation in the Jackrabbit program, and we'd like to increase participation again this year.

I've noticed two benefits of this fine program that Jane Heyes works hard to organize. First, I've noticed some great young skiers who learned to ski as Jackrabbits. Some are now regional champions, and some will soon be on the podium. Secondly, I've noticed some families who

began skiing together because of the Jackrabbit program, so consider setting an example for your children by getting out and skiing while they learn the fundamentals.

Any young family should consider learning ski skills through cross-country skiing. Children develop ski skills more quickly on cross-country skis, plus it builds fitness

faster than any other activity.

In addition, a family can ski for a whole season on the Haliburton Nordic Trails system for about the price of one day of skiing at an alpine resort.

All in all, the ski pass you buy is a great deal. If you haven't gotten yours yet, then visit www.skihaliburton.com or call Joleen at 286-3649 to get the details.

Join the Prostate Extreme Team

On Saturday, Feb. 18 the Prostate Extreme Team will be looking for snowmobile enthusiasts in the Haliburton area to come out and join fellow riders from across Ontario to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer research.

The 100 km ride will begin at the Stanhope Firefighters Hall and travel the scenic trails of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association's trail system.

A minimum event pledge of \$50 is required along with a \$25 entry fee, which includes a hot lunch after the ride, extensive prize table and a great opportunity to meet other snowmobile enthusiasts all riding for a great cause from all over Ontario.

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in men. It affects one

in seven men in the course of their lifetime.

Its Tour of Hope consists of a snowmobile tour, a motorcycle ride and an ATV ride.

For more information on the team's upcoming events, or to download pledge and registration forms please visit www.prostateextremeteam.com or call 1-905-847-8077.

The top three riders who collect the highest amount in pledges will win Yamaha bucks worth \$500, \$300 and \$200 respectively. A mystery prize will be won by the person who travels the farthest.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Prostate Extreme Team, please send an e-mail to sherri@prostateextremeteam.com.



AUDITIONS

Auditions for the Highlands Summer Festival's 2006 season productions will be held Saturday and Sunday January 14 & 15 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Audition packages are available at the locations listed below or may be downloaded from the Highlands Summer Festival web site. This year's productions will require ten women and ten men ranging in age from 20 to 60+ and three to ten children/adolescents 9 to 17 years of age.

Please note: You must register in advance to attend an audition. Registration and audition information, character descriptions and an explanation of the commitment expected of anyone interested in taking part in this season's productions is included in the audition packages. Audition packages can be picked up at:

Kitchens Etc.
Highland Street
Haliburton

The Storeroom
138 Main Street
Minden

BACKSTAGE ASSISTANCE

Highlands Summer Festival is also looking for volunteers interested in assisting in a number of back stage functions including set construction and painting, assistant stage management, strike and set crew, ushering and ticket-taking, wardrobe and other areas. Anyone interested in learning more about these opportunities should contact the Producers:

Dave Mills-754-2999 or Heather Smith 4572218.

www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

The County of Haliburton



PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS

The County of Haliburton will be holding two Budget Open Houses to informally review the draft 2006 budget with the ratepayers.

The first one will be held Monday, January 16, 2006 at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce between the hours of 7 pm and 9 pm. The second will be held Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at the County Council Chambers in Minden between the hours of 7pm and 9pm.

The Council of the County of Haliburton will also be having a 2006 budget meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at the County Council Chambers in Minden.

For further information please contact Laura Janke at 286-1333 ext. 224 or ljanke@county.haliburton.on.ca

Sixth duck hunter fined in bait-laying case

A sixth hunter has been fined \$1,200 and banned from hunting migratory game birds for one year in connection with an incident in 2004.

Marty P. McGrath, 24, of Douro, pleaded guilty to hunting within 400 metres of a baited area. Five other hunters involved in the same incident were fined and given a similar ban when they appeared in court in January this year.

Court was told that Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officers from Minden caught the men hunting ducks over a baited pond in Digby Township on September 18, 2004.

Placing bait for the purposes of hunting migratory birds is illegal and unethical.

Justice of the Peace Diane Jackson heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Lindsay, on December 16, 2005.

Call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free 24 hours a day to report natural resource violations or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



Join the family

This Saturday, an intriguing new show opens at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. It's All Relative is a breathtaking exhibition of internationally-recognized Canadian artists Carl Beam, Ann Beam and their daughter Anong Migwans Beam. It captures beliefs and culture with striking imagery on clay vessels. The gallery will be hosting a reception from 2 to 4 p.m..

Interested in trucks? Attend OPP truck, trailer seminar

On January 17, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. officers from the Ministry of Transportation in Huntsville and the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment will be at the Minden Community Centre conducting a light truck and trailer seminar.

Dealerships, commercial businesses and truck and trailer owners are invited to attend.

Topics will include vehicle permits, gross vehicle weights, trailers and under 4500kgs, driver's licences and annual inspections. There is no fee or registration required.

The Minden Community Centre is on Parkside Drive above the arena.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! Now that the festivities are pretty much over and the winter has us staying indoors more, it's a great time to start planning for the upcoming building season. Now that bill 124 is fully in effect you may find that the demand for drawings outweighs the supply. It is a good idea to get going on the design stage as early as possible.

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Cottager publishes book about killer flu

Jim Poling says experts argue about the severity of flu, but not whether it's coming or not

by LANCE CROSSLEY
Times staff

A title like *Killer Flu: The world on the brink of a pandemic* would almost be considered sensationalistic if it weren't for the fact that most of the world's respected scientists are pointing to just that.

"Experts will argue about the severity but they won't argue whether it's coming or not," says Jim Poling Sr., author a new book by the same name. "There will be another pandemic, there's no question about that."

Poling is a retired Canadian Press journalist who splits his time between Alliston and a cottage on St. Nora's Lake. The 62-year-old says the book is a "straight journalistic effort" that attempts to get information about the potentially killer flu out to a large audience.

The book was originally going to be about the 1918 epidemic known as the Spanish Flu but soon evolved to encompass what is now known as the bird flu.

The Spanish Flu is considered by some as the most catastrophic epidemic in recorded history and killed more people than those who died in The Great War. (Estimates of the dead vary between 20 to 40 million). Poling was struck by how the flu dropped the average life expectancy from 50 to 38.

Interestingly, Poling says, very little has been written about the Spanish Flu until fairly recently, a phenomenon he attributes to the collective desire to erase it from society's memory. One of the potential similarities between the Spanish Flu and



Jim Poling Sr. is a former journalist and local author of the book *Killer Flu: The world on the brink of a pandemic*. Poling says some estimate casualties could soar as high as 360 million people. Photo, Lance Crossley.

the next pandemic is that it will be most deadly to otherwise healthy 15 to 40-year-olds due to their overactive immune systems.

Some health officials say the bird flu — also known as the H5N1 virus — could be much worse, with estimated casualties reaching high as 360 million people. Best case scenarios put the number of dead at two million. The World Health Organization says a more reasonable number would be seven to eight million.

The truth is nobody can really predict its severity but Poling makes some trou-

bling suggestions. He says the Spanish Flu took many months to spread around the world because of the lack of international travel. And even though medicine and emergency management procedures are more sophisticated than in 1918, Poling says a new epidemic would travel much quicker.

"It would spread within hours," says Poling. "SARS came from Hong Kong in a day. And SARS wasn't even that contagious unless you were right there receiving the droplets. You can catch the flu across the room. The speed is very fright-

ening because there is no place to run."

Poling says SARS vastly improved this country's emergency preparedness but worries about how society will cope with the emotional weight of an epidemic — particularly in a culture where extreme suffering is typically something safely witnessed from a television set.

"In SARS you saw some awful things that happen in how society can turn bad," says Poling. "Phillipino nannies were told never to come back again. People were kicked out of their apartments and lost their jobs. There was incredible discrimination and fear."

Using the SARS financial fallout as a model, a senior economist at the World Bank has said a major flu pandemic could cost the international economy upwards of \$800 billion in losses — a two per cent drop in the world's gross domestic product.

Poling says an epidemic in the age of globalization would carry a much more severe economic impact than it did in 1918.

"In the world today, can you imagine?" says Poling. "They'd start shutting down airlines to stop the spread. Factories would close. They'd stop producing cars. It would be economic collapse. The world would recover but there would be a collapse."

Killer Flu is published by Altitude and has been distributed to newsstands at several stores including Shoppers Drug Mart, PharmaPlus, Loblaws, Wal-Mart and Zellers.

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Ice huts and toilet paper

Fish huts are rapidly appearing on the lakes now that the New Year's fishing season is open. Is it a primal urge that gets people out there dropping their lines, an opportunity to bond with fellow mates out fishing or a simply a convenience for the spouses of retirees looking to get some peace and quiet and get their mates out of the house? Whatever the reason, reports of catches are coming in daily.

A call to Mary Stiver's house to see how Halls Lake's quintessential fisherwoman has fared so far this year revealed that she has already lucked out. Although with Mary, it's hardly luck. Persistence is more like it. Mary was out fishing when I called but her son, Danny, reported that her hut "was the first one out on the lake and she had caught fish already."

Jim Cummings and his brother Alex are a little more cautious. They're waiting until the ice is a little thicker, preferably more than six inches. They should be out soon, however. For Jim, ice fishing is all about relaxing, the enjoyment of being out there playing cards, spending time with relatives, and bringing in the odd pound and a half trout. He also confesses, "It's nice to give the wives a break from us, too."

New Year's is a time to make resolutions and look to the future but that often involves looking to the past to explore our region's history. Recently, residents of Halls Lake Road have been reminded of the historical significance of this road. Dave Bulford, a cottager at Halls Lake since 1945 and a permanent resident since 1995, published a booklet in February of 2001 outlining, amongst other things, the historic pioneer settlement of Halls Lake. He intends to update the booklet and republish it in 2006. Following is some information he sent, giving a historic perspective of Halls Lake Road.

The road, now known as Halls Lake Road, was originally established to the north side of Halls Lake to accommodate the farm settlers (Deacon, Johnson, Upton, Foote, Welch, and others) who had obtained their land patents between 1879 and 1898. An inland portion of the road, from current #1285 (Awde), to #1447 (O'Neill), was by-passed in the mid 1930s and replaced with a lake-side access road. This improvement coincided with the opening of the new Highway 35 from Carnarvon to Dorset.



STANHOPE LIFE

Pauline Johnson

489-3878 bpjohnson@sympatico.ca

Through eight decades this road provided a trusted school-bus route for the pioneer families to the Halls Lake School until its closure in 1939, and then subsequently to the Boshkung School until its closure in the 1950s, and then to the Minden and Haliburton schools until 1985. Until 1985, Halls Lake Road had been maintained to handle all residential, commercial, industrial and even tourist bus traffic, serving traffic to Halls Lake, Big Hawk Lake and Little Hawk Lake. For a period of time, this roadway was identified as County Road 13.

The west end of Halls Lake Road, up to the Cadge (or former 'Dump') Road, was by-passed by a new routing of County Road 13 in the early 1980s. The East end of Halls Lake Road was by-passed by the continuation of the new County Road 13 in the next few years. Both ends of Halls Lake Road were formally 'dead-ended' as a 'cul-de-sac' in 1985 and the road reverted to 'township' status. Thus, the current Halls Lake Road has inherited the structure of a major township and county road, unlike many other 'cul-de-sac' access roads throughout the township. Most other such 'cul-de-sac' roads are still in their original 'gravel-only' status! Because this road was originally one of the more popular local access roads, it had inherited a high density of developed properties by 1985. Since then, there have been relatively few 'new' properties opened on this road and the current density remains stable. Considering its current population, (resident and seasonal) the Halls Lake Road is of a superior structure to many other 'cul-de-sac' roads within our township.

Bulford says, "I believe Algonquin Highlands Township has maintained the inherited historic road structure of the Halls Lake Road comparatively well over the recent 20

years."

Trails in Algonquin Highlands are also important in the travels of area residents. Margaret and Peter Brogden send this report on outdoor trail facilities. "We were able to install new mouseproof toilet paper dispensers in the ingeniously built toilets at the top of the James Cooper Lookout on Christmas Eve. Happily, we were not the only people at the lookout that day; there were footprints ahead of us and two more came just behind us, glad to have our snowshoe tracks to follow."

"If you have not yet been to the summit to enjoy the view of Beech, Boshkung and Maple Lakes, try it on your next outing. And take time to admire the late James Cooper's skill in constructing a dual toilet out of blue plastic water barrels. Better still, plan to help us carry hot water and brushes to give the place a thorough clean in the spring. Spiders and other insects are not known for their tidiness."

Attention Stanhope writers. The writer in residence program at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre is presenting a workshop on the use of mythology in writing. Myths passed down by word of mouth were the original stories that people created to explain the workings and natural elements of the world in which they lived. Because human nature is universal, basic character types, plots and themes have endured over the centuries since the human race came into existence. Come out and join in a discussion led by Lea Harper and Fay Wilkinson on this fascinating topic. It's on Thursday, January 19 from 1-3 p.m.

To submit any item of interest to this regular weekly column, please e-mail bpjohnson@sympatico.ca or call (705) 489-3878. Share what you know about what's happening in Stanhope or how you enjoyed a particular event or gathering.



Haliburton Highlands
Secondary School

NOTICE

REGISTRATION FOR SEMESTER 2 FOR NEW STUDENTS

**Classes for Semester 2 begins
Friday, February 3, 2006**

New students planning to register for Semester 2 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School are to see a Guidance Counsellor to choose courses.

Please contact Alison Rae at 457-2950, ext. 227 during the week of January 9-13, 2006 to make an appointment to see the Counsellor.

Doris Monahan - Chairperson Gary Brohman
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Ratepayers and supporters of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board can find 2004-2005 Audited Financial Statements at www.tidsb.on.ca

Financial Statement Package includes:

- Auditor's Report
- Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
- Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
- Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position
- Schedule of Operating Fund
- Schedule of Capital Fund
- Schedule of Internally Restricted Reserve Funds
- Schedule of School Activities Fund
- Notes to Financial Statements

Further information can be obtained by contacting Susan Kirkpatrick at the Trillium Lakelands District School Board Corporate Office:

P.O. Box 420, 300 County Road 36,
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Doris Monahan, CHAIR

Kathy Verduyn, DIRECTOR

Hike and ski the Christmas cheer away

Local trails are perfect for outdoor exercise with boots, skis or snow shoes

Are you looking for a way to "shed the Christmas cheer"? We are very fortunate to live in Algonquin Highlands where we have access to so much Crown land. We have year-round opportunities to get out into the hills and forests to walk, cross country ski or snowshoe which are all great exercises for increasing fitness and losing weight.

In October, Haliburton Trails and Tours host an increasingly popular annual fall hiking weekend which attracts hundreds of participants of which many are from the city. In winter there are 26 km of groomed cross-country ski trails across the road from the now closed Frost Centre. The trails continue to be maintained by a small group called Ski Friends of the Frost Centre. The trails, groomed for classic skiing (not skate-skiing) wind through hills and valleys with two warming shelters so take your lunch! You will glide past a beautiful ice falls later in the season so take your camera too. Incidentally, for safety reasons walkers, dogs and snowshoers are forbidden access to the ski trails but are encouraged to use the walking trails across Hwy 35, behind the Frost Centre Buildings. Try skiing for a day (a day's pass is only \$10 or \$7 after 2 p.m.) Annual membership is \$40 single and \$80 family and accompanied school age children ski for free. The volunteers who maintain this facility are always surprised at how few members are local as most travel long distances to cottages or local resorts.

More details and up to date trail conditions are available on the website www.skithefrost.ca. The hiking trails behind the Frost Centre buildings are being enjoyed by increasing numbers of snowshoers and the Ski Friends trust they will be maintained and open to the public. So, dress well and be invigorated by the fresh air and exercise, nothing more enjoyable on a bright, cold winter day!

What's new and exciting at the Dorset CAP (public computer and internet access) site? Having trouble taking pictures with your digital camera? Not sure how to operate it? Do you need to know how to organize your pictures on the computer? If so, call on Robbie, full time photographer with two years experience. Robbie also happens to be available to help you out at the Dorset



DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano
705-766-0076
melalfano@hotmail.com

Recreation Centre with your digital camera, or any other computer related questions. Call 766-9968 and ask for Rob Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Do you want to lose those extra Christmas pounds? Has your doctor urged you to control your weight because of high blood pressure or diabetes? Dorset TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is a non-profit weight loss group that does NOT sell you food, or lose interest when you achieve your goal (you become a KOPS—Keep Off Pounds Sensibly). Membership is \$30 yearly and \$6 per month. Each month you will receive the TOPS magazine, full of good tips and articles. Meetings are held weekly, with a weigh in and discussion. In 2005 members' average weight loss was 11.5 lbs, with the "winner of the year" losing 17 lbs, after only six months. For more information call 766-1418.

The United Churches of Lake of Bays charge (Dorset, Dwight and Hillside) Sunday, January 8 services will be at Knox United, Dorset at 9:30 a.m. and Pioneer Memorial, Hillside at 11 a.m. and will be conducted by lay preacher Gundy Upans. Services will continue to be held at 9:30 a.m. in Dorset and 11 a.m. in Hillside while Dwight is closed during the winter months.

A new session of Tai Chi, Chi Kung and Meditation will begin at the Dorset Recreation Centre on Monday, January, 9 starting at 6:30 p.m. and running to 8 p.m. The session is 12 weeks long and will cost \$162 + \$11.34 GST. Valerie Houston-Peel of Temple Knights will be conducting the session. For more information or to register, please call the Rec Centre at 766-9968.

The 9th Annual Dinner and Music Night takes place at the Dorset Recreation Centre on Saturday, January, 14 starting at 6 p.m. Dinner is chili with all the fixings and music is provided by local talent (all are welcome to join in this part of the evening). Call the Recreation Centre to

reserve at 766-9968 or for more details.

Our fine feathered friends are a colourful contrast to the white blanketing the earth this time of year. If you would like information on identifying Haliburton's wide variety of birds, research into which food they prefer to eat or ideas for bird feeders and houses, take a visit to your library branch. There you will find books to borrow and request to further enrich your bird watching enjoyment. To browse the catalogue for books on birds, do a Google search for the Haliburton County Public Library website and type in birds as a subject. Spread your wings @ your library.

Birthday wishes for the week of January 1 to 7 go out to Larry Bradbury, John Clayton, Mary Fitz-Gibbon, Jordan Wilson and Alex Jordan. I hope you enjoy your special day!

To submit an item of interest or a birthday wish, please email me at melalfano@hotmail.com or give me a call at 705-766-0076.

Oops... We goofed

The back cover of the December 30 Echo Extra incorrectly stated that the "Season's Greetings" message painted under the ice in the photo was at the Dysart et al arena. The photo was taken at the Minden Arena and was orchestrated by the Township of Minden Hills.

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Time for New Year's resolutions

Why not resolve to compile a family tree or biography?

Last Friday as New Year's Eve approached, the morning radio hosts were discussing making resolutions. According to one survey it was not diet or fitness pledges that topped the list but, instead, filing one's income tax return on time. Health-related issues ranked third and, not so surprisingly, cleaning the oven scored lowest. Personally I have vowed to always keep paper and pen beside the telephones in 2006 for recording the event scores and not having to put faithful reporters on hold while scrambling for yet another scrap of paper.

If you haven't already done so why not resolve to start making a Family Tree or biographical notes to share with family members. Bruce and I cared for my grandfather until he passed away in his 96th year predeceased by both my father and mother. Details in his daily stories, which he repeated what seemed a thousand times, have now faded from recall and family faces captured in early black and whites remain strangers unidentified by name or date. It would have only taken a few minutes of our time. What else could have been so pressing?

Don't be discouraged by lack of historical records or access to others. Start today with who and what you have and build from there. A great local resource is The Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group. Go to its website at



AROUND THE TOWN

Patti Fleury

488-2938 Fax: 488-1246

email:brucefleury@ptbo.igs.net

www.rootsweb.com/~onhgg/ or give its Newsletter editor Gail Leach-Wunker a call at 286 - 2225.

This Christmas granddaughter Emma on a limited budget decided instead to make her parents a very special gift. Tears came as they read aloud her beautifully written record of their life to date as a family beginning with David and Rita's early childhoods, schooling and significant career achievements and, of course, her own arrival on the scene in August of 1988. As Emma heads off to university next September no purchased present under the tree meant more to all of us gathered there. As the television commercial says her gift of time and love was priceless.

Now for the Scoring News with your usual reminder to keep busy and well. They go together. There were very few of the regular events held over this past holiday week but look for a full slate of results in next week's column. Remember that all of the groups reporting welcome new players and several are quite willing to assist those wishing to learn. If you would like a contact num-

ber give me a call. Our telephone has been out of order for a few days now and hopefully service will be restored today. My apologies to anyone who has been trying to reach us.

December 31 bid euchre/euchre at Club 35: Euchre winners were Colleen Davison for most lone hands, Pearl and Kathy Kernohan for high/low lady, Stan Dutka and Cliff Davison for high/low man with Kathy Kernohan taking home the baloney. A special prize was awarded to Betty Wagar. In bid euchre Dick Coffey had the only moonshot with Peter Guck holding the hidden score. Verna Sawyer led the pinks at 270 with Willie Cox second at 257 and Marj Coffey 237 third. Tops for the white cards was Dick Coffey at 277 then George Bye 264 and Garth Windsor 258.

January 2 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at the Kinmount Legion: In first place was Dana Briscoe with John Deak second high. Eileen Shepstone, Thelma Francis, Dana Briscoe and Frank Franzen had the moonshots with Roger Fournier winning the draw.

The Kinmount Seniors welcome new

players of all skill levels to euchre at the Legion on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and to bid euchre there on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. The cost for each full session is \$2.00 which includes refreshments on Wednesdays and a lunch on Mondays held at 12:30 p.m. before cards.

January 2 euchre at Staunworth Terrace, Minden: Albert Foster won for high hands, Gala Stamp for lone hands and Diane Peacock for both low hands and the special draw. Convener Elaine Yeo reminds that this event is not limited to residents of the Terrace but open to all the community. Cards begin at 7 p.m. and the cost for the evening is \$2.00 with refreshments. There is parking on the street nearby.

January 2 euchre at Club 35: Lone hand honours went to Colleen Davison with Jane Swick the baloney winner. For the ladies Jean Dutka was high and Jean Randell low while Percy Butler led the gents and Clara Miscio was low. Thanks to Helen and Garth Windsor for this report.

Now off to fill the kitchen porch bird feeder. T

he red squirrel has reappeared for the first time this winter and his antics combined with those of our downy woodpecker gymnast have moved birdseed purchases into the household entertainment budgetary column.



A roaring donation

The Vice-Chairperson of the Minden Food Bank, Bill Obee, accepts \$500 from Minden Lions Club President Al Esklin, contributing to the Community Christmas Basket Program. At back, volunteer Ron Reid was also present and helped with the organization of the food and toys at the Minden Community Centre. The Lions Club also contributed \$500 worth of food purchased at the Minden IGA in addition to the financial donation. Photo by Darren Lum.

Out with the old website and in with the new

Forget www.libris.ca/hali/ ... go for www.haliburton.canlib.ca

The Haliburton County Public Library is ringing in the New Year with a new website. So as you try to remember that 2005 is now 2006, you should also bookmark the new address on your computer.

Joel Levis, County Librarian, stresses that while the old address will still be valid for some time, "The real action has shifted to our new locale in a fancier neighbourhood."

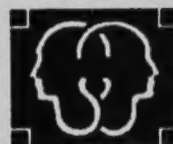
The new online public access catalogue offers many new approaches to meeting the informational and recreational interests of the county's users. There are now more coloured icons, reviews, and selec-

tions from individual titles, the capability to establish your own reading lists and of course, the ability to place interloans from any computer at any time of the day or night.

"How you use it is up to you and is limited only by your imagination," Levis says.

The best way to learn about it is to sign on and explore and while staff are always willing to help you, the best way to learn is to "just do it", Levis says. "You can't hurt it", he adds, "So go for it".

The system will be evolving and changing on a regular basis as new features are added so check in early and often. Remember ... www.haliburton.canlib.ca.



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290 COMING EVENTS

RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO

Haliburton Unit are having their annual **Chickadee Luncheon** at the Old Country House, Haliburton **Monday, January 16th at 12:00 p.m.** A flat rate will be charged. All R.T.O. Members, Retired Teachers and Guests Welcome. Members will be telephoned. For non-member reservations, call Louise Cooper at 754-9129 by January 10.

300 ANNOUNCEMENTS

DID SANTA FORGET?? If you didn't find a Highlands Summer Festival season pass in your stocking Christmas morning, there is still time to get one at pre-Christmas pricing. Until January 15, you can purchase a season pass for only \$65...it is like giving yourself a gift of four great shows for the price of three. The 2006 line-up includes: Maggie's Getting Married; The Miracle Worker; Over The River and Through The Woods; and our classical music concert, If Music Be The Food Of Love, Play On!. Season passes are now on sale at The Storeroom in Minden, Kitchens Etc. in Haliburton or call the box office at 705-457-9933, for more information. Don't forget, this offer ends January 15.

CA

400 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the Estate of GERALD MOLLOY, late of the Township of Lutterworth in the Municipality of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton, deceased, who died on or about April 12, 2005, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of January 2006, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

DATED at Minden this 22nd day of December, 2005. Daniel J. Wyjad, Estate Trustee by his or her solicitor. PINCKARD WYJAD FLEMING ASSOCIATES, Barristers and Solicitors, P.O. Box 850, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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450 IN MEMORIAM

McKELVEY, RHODA – In loving memory of our precious mother and grandma, Rhoda McKelvey, who left us suddenly January 9, 2004.

"Our Mother" Our Mother could do anything (or so we always thought) She'd sew our clothes and they would look As good as if store-bought. From nothing much, she'd make a pie And with her magic touch It'd look and taste like finest fare Wish we could do as much And if she never had the time Go stop and tie a bow. Or peel an apple, kiss a hurt She never let us know. She always tried to ease our pain And dry away our tears Oh, if we only had her now To soothe our grown-up years. We've asked God for a portion now A smidgen, just a tad. Of patience, love and wisdom like The kind our Mother had. Love you always, Mom **Sharon, Linda, Brenda, Kathy, Wendy and families.**

460 OBITUARIES

AT REST JOHN-PETER "Jack" HILL

Passed away at the Haliburton Hospital on Tuesday, December 27, 2005 at the age of 83.

Beloved husband of Shirley (nee Thomson). Dear father of Chris (at home), Peter and Karen of Belleville and Alison of Everett, Washington U.S.A. Loving grandpa of J.D. and Alannah. Dear brother of Lois (Rod) Mens of Mount Pleasant, Keith (Mildred) Hill of Ingoldsby, Betty (Norman) Harrison of Minden, and great nephew of Celia Brown of Lochlin. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden (www.gordonmonk-funeralhome.com) on Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service was held in our Chapel on Saturday, December 31, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. Reception followed in the family centre. Spring Interment at the Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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460 OBITUARIES



At Rest FISCHBACH, Frances Louella "Lou"

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest, Minden on Thursday, December 22, 2005 after a lengthy illness at the age of 66. Beloved wife of Carl Fischbach of Carnarvon. Loving mother of Jonathan (Rita) of Calgary, Karin (Glenn) of Toronto & grandmother of Villamere of Renfrew, Earnest LaBarge (deceased) of Windsor, Rita Leeder of Lake St. Peter, Agatha West of Huntsville, Teresa Smith of Whitby, Marjorie Schmidt of Cambridge, Janet Murray (deceased) of Cambridge, Helen Sellen (deceased) of Mississauga, Verna Bastien of Mississauga, Raymond LaBarge of Kitchener. Predeceased by her parents Louis and Frances LaBarge of Whitney. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, family and friends. A Private Memorial Service for family and close friends was held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden K0M 2K0 (or on line at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com) on Wednesday, December 28, 2005. Cremation has taken place. Memorial Donations to the Hyland Crest Residents Council would be appreciated by the family.

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MINDEN ONTARIO

- Jan. 10:** Ontario Early Years Minden Family Supper Night is taking place on January 10, 2006 for families with children 0-6 years. While enjoying a nutritious meal with your child and other families join us for information on how to manage difficult behaviours with our guest Darlene Box from Family Services. Please call to register by Monday, Jan. 9, 2006 at 286-1770.
- Jan. 11:** Sign up now for Adventure Morning starting on January 11th. This three-week series is a Parent Child interactive program. Each Wednesday we will explore a topic using song, math, science, crafts and more. Parents will leave with information to continue the learning and fun at home. For further information please call the Ontario Early Years Centre, Haliburton at 457-2989.
- Jan. 11:** Red Hatter Matter – your attention please, all ladies of the Red Hats of Haliburton County – your next fun-tastic event is on Jan. 11th. A special noon luncheon buffet at Win Yeung Chinese restaurant in Haliburton. Please phone 754-4957 or queen "B" at 457-9595 by January 5th. to reserve your place.
- Jan. 12:** Haliburton County Farmers' Association Annual General Meeting. Thurs. Jan. 12, Minden Arena at 7:30. Plan to attend and become a director on our executive, an active volunteer, or a member enjoying our many activities, agricultural information sessions and vet services. For more info. call 455-9617.
- Jan. 12:** Ontario Early Years Centre Minden – Well Baby Drop-In will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in (Sears Building). Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing and developing. For information call the Health Unit, 457-1391.
- Jan. 12:** Ontario Early Years Haliburton Family Supper Night is taking place on January 12, 2006 for families with children 0-6 years. While enjoying a nutritious meal with your child and other families join us for information on how to handle your child's whining and temper tantrums. Please call to register by Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006 at 457-2989.
- Jan. 12:** Ladies Fellowship – The West Guilford Community Centre, Thurs., Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Theme: New Beginnings. Special Speaker: Ruth Carter. Feature: Mary Gryciuk of Marty's. Music: Donna Lee Sisson. Join us for a ladies night out! For more info. call Lyn at 457-3155 or Alice at 754-2808.
- Jan. 13 to March 3:** Ontario Early Years Haliburton is offering 8 Swim and Gym sessions for families with children 0-6 years at the Wigamog Inn. Splish, Splash, and Play! Families that play together stay fit together. Join us Friday mornings starting January 13 to Mar. 3 by registering at our Early Learning Centre 457-2989.
- Jan. 17:** Haliburton Highlands Prostate Cancer Support Group will not be holding its regularly scheduled December meeting due to the holidays. We wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge, Highland Crest Senior Citizen's Home in Minden. Call Rick Ratcliff at 286-6699.
- Jan. 18:** Parent-Child Kindergym – The Ontario Early Years Centre, in partnership with Haliburton Dance Arts, will be offering "Kindergym" for parents and their pre-school children. 6 week session starting Wed., Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Physical Journeys, Main St., Minden. Instructor: Terri Mathews. Call the O.E.Y.C. at 286-1770 to register as spaces are limited. There is no cost, donations appreciated.
- Jan. 19:** The use of Mythology in Writing, a workshop presented by Lea Harper and Fay Wilkinson, will be held in the Common Room at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre from 1 - 3 p.m. In this workshop, the group will explore myths' recurring patterns (plots) and discuss their enduring relevance in our lives and in our writing. This program is put on by the Writer in Residence Program at the cultural centre. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free of charge. For more information, call Pauline Johnson at 489-3878. Snow date will be Thursday, February 2.
- Jan. 19:** Haliburton Well Baby Drop-In Clinic. Ontario Early Years Centre Haliburton – Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing and developing. Held in Haliburton (Halco Plaza) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- Jan. 25:** Prenatal Class Registration Deadline. Join this free class offered by the Health Unit to help expectant parents prepare for baby's arrival. Call the Health Unit at 457-1391 to register or find out more.
- Jan. 28:** Ontario Early Years Centre Minden – Family Literacy Day on Sat., Jan. 28 from 10:30 - 1:00. We will be making books, having story time, and sharing a potluck brunch. Each family will receive a new book to take home. Call 286-1770.

- Thursdays are all about Babies** at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton. While babies sleep and play parents share the joys and wonder of parenting. If you have any question about your infants care, or growth and development the HKPR Health Unit offers a Well Baby Drop In on January 19th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For further info., please call Stephanie at 457-2989.
- Attention All Dads:** Have an adventure with your child this Saturday and Visit the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton. Fathers who drop by enjoy building castles in the construction zone creating masterpieces in the art room. We are open Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting again on January 14th. Also, watch for more information on Family Literacy Day, celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 27th. For more information on our programming please call 457-2989.
- Join Ontario Early Years Centre** in Haliburton for an exciting new parent child series. Cooking with Kids is a four-week program. Parents will leave with ideas to continue the learning at home. Please call Stephanie at 457-2989 for more info or to sign up.
- Indoor walking** as a health promoting activity has begun again from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m., the halls of Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Walkers meet outside the custodian's office. No charge. For more info call Morris, 286-6079.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavor to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Times at 286-4768, emailed to editor@mindentimes.on.ca., or brought in to the office. **NOTE:** This calendar is **NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS** taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in The Times for more information on events and in the Highlands.

THE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS is Tuesday at 12 noon.
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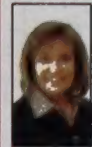
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This immaculately kept, modern & spacious, Royal home was built in 2002. Situated on a very scenic 5 acre lot. Nicely landscaped. Attached 2 car garage, full bmt & fully enclosed front verandah. 3 extra large bdrms, 2 full 4 piece baths, many extras. A must see! Extudes pride of ownership. Quiet, private setting. A must see. Vendor relocating.

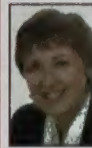
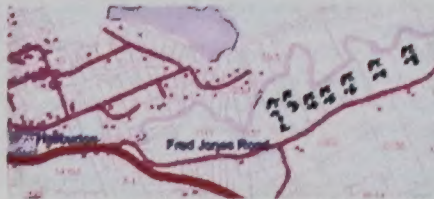
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176 ACRE RETREAT

Located minutes from the town of Haliburton. This 3 bedroom home/cottage sits close to the shoreline of Bonham Lake. The cottage is full of old country charm w/wood interior & cathedral ceilings. For more information call Geoff Bunn.

\$599,000



Rick Lowee*
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12 MILE LAKE WATERFRONT

Level, private and beautiful sand beach, good building site. Miles of boating, great fishing and swimming. CALL NOW.

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Custom built executive 3 bdrm cottage/home. Loads of extras includes, base boat, paddle boat and ski boat. CALL NOW!

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Fred Chapple*
286-2911
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SWEET & COZY
Older home, 2 bdrm, family kitchen, lots of windows, level lot, all on oak floor. Nice workshop. Older metal septic tank, but still operational.

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Karen Nimigon*
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MOORE LAKE

2+1 bdrm, 4 season WF home. Charming country w/wood walls & beamed cathedral ceilings. Well designed kitchen is a "Recipe For Success". Sunken living room with woodstove & w/o to deck. Spacious bdrms, main floor laundry, rec room, workshop and storage area, single car garage and 10x10 shed/workshop, cedar dock, sand shoreline, 3 lake chain. Close to Snowmobile trails.

\$319,000

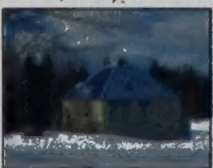


Victor Diek*
286-2911
ext. 45

DUCK LAKE ROAD

Wow! Only minutes to golfing, skiing, snowmobiling, boating, swimming & fishing. This 3 bdrm home is nestled aesthetically into a 5 acre lot close to Minden. A circular staircase sweeps from the lower, to the main & to the upper level. From the kitchen you can walk out to your balcony & enjoy your morning coffee or relax in a bright cozy living room. For viewing ask for Victor Diek.

\$279,000



SOUTH LAKE

This year round cottage/home is about 2 hours to Toronto & only minutes to Minden. A very large kitchen makes entertaining enjoyable. The 3 bdrms are a good size in this 1200 sq ft home. Close to skiing, snowmobile trails & more. This Lake boasts very good bass fishing. Come see for yourself. Ask for Victor Diek.

\$269,000



Elizabeth Thompson*
457-1011
ext. 248

CENTURY FARMHOUSE

Quaint 5 bdrm home located on Hwy #118 across from Green Lake, a 3 lake chain. Great 4 acre retreat property. House has loads of character. Enjoy the breeze & lake view from the front porch swing. Upgrades in recent years. Lrg loft area can be made into a studio or master suite. New drilled well in 2002. Reshingled in 1997. Call Elizabeth.

\$219,000



Vince Duchene*
457-1011
ext. 225

\$139,900



Ted Vasey*
457-1011
ext. 223

INGOLDSBY

Well maintained 1800 sq ft bungalow. Modern oak kitchen w/island, w/o kitchen to rear deck, new cedar bath with Jacuzzi tub, 3 bdrms, main floor laundry & new roof, new drilled well, close to lake access.

NOW \$169,000



BOSKUNG LAKE

Spectacular view from this 3 bdrm cottage. Country kitchen with a lake view, open concept living room, w/o LR to deck, perimeter foundation, modern septic, natural rock lot, Western view.

ASKING \$349,000



Lenor Fulton*
Tracy Ackert*
286-2911
exts. 23 & 46

RAVINE ROAD, MINDEN

This two bedroom raised bungalow Royal Home with a full walkout basement is situated a short distance south of Minden on a very private 95 acres property. Nicely treed acreage with trails throughout, large deck, modern propane furnace, recently installed, spacious eat-in kitchen. Ideal country retreat!

\$249,500



SWINSON ROAD

Ideal starter or investment/rental home. Situated just off County Road #121, this 3 bdrm bungalow features open concept kitchen and dining area, main floor family room and office/den. Nestled on nicely treed and private 3 acre lot, this home is presently vacant and available for immediate possession.

ASKING \$124,900



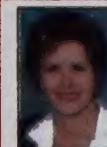
Melanie Vigras*
286-2911
ext. 40

NEW LISTING

DAVIS LAKE ROAD

Two lots (6.9 acres and 6.1 acres) on year round Township road with hydro at lot line and backing onto crown land. Call Melanie for details.

\$17,500/each



Linda Beachli*
457-1011
ext. 227

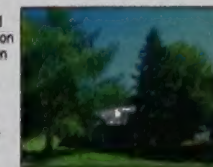
\$275,000



SUNNY & BRIGHT

This legal duplex is beautifully finished with 3 bedrooms upstairs and a self-contained 1 bedroom downstairs. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac of Haliburton Village close to hospital and schools. Park-like setting with trails behind, small pond and trees all around. Move in and have room for visitors or enjoy double rental income. A must see!

\$209,900



Peter Brady*
457-1011
ext. 234

RESORT OR LARGE FAMILY

Enjoy Maple Lake with your own 660 feet of waterfront. This multiple building listing has operated as a resort and currently is enjoyed by one family. On the property are a large main lodge with 6 bedrooms, a manager's residence and 11 cabins. Call me for more details.

\$1,250,000



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Located just south of Minden on the major highway heading north this location offers a production shop, storage shop, administration area with out buildings all on more than 10 acres of multiple zoned parcels of property.

ONLY \$695,000

